

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 05746 101150Z

43

ACTION SCI

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06

SCEM-02 RSR-01 /082 W

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3091

INFO AEC/GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 5746

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FRONT-PAGE STORY IN KURIER (LARGEST CIRCULATION AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER) OF JULY 7, UNDER HEADLINE "RADIOACTIVE TIME BOMB--ATOMIC WASTE SCANDAL IN USA":

QUOTE: ACCORDING TO THE REPORT OF THE "LOS ANGELES TIMES," TEN THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS AND LARGE PARTS OF THE U.S.A. ARE SERIOUSLY IN DANGER DUE TO RADIOACTIVE WASTE. THE PAPER REPORTS THAT TWO MILLION LITERS OF HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE LIQUID ARE LEAKING OUT OF A HUGE TANK BELONGING TO THE U.S. AEC IN HANFORD (WASHINGTON). ADDITIONALLY, IT SAYS THAT IN SOUTH CAROLINA, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL FROM A LEAKY TANK HAS REACHED GROUND WATER. MOREOVER, IN IDAHO FALLS, HIGHLY POISONOUS PLUTONIUM WASTE MAY HAVE BEEN STORED IN ORDINARY STEEL BARRELS.

THE "LOS ANGELES TIMES," TAKING ITS INFORMATION FROM AEC OFFICIALS AND SECRET REPORTS, REPROACHES THE AEC FOR FOLLOWING A "POLITICS OF RISKS" ALTHOUGH THERE ARE "BETTER POSSIBILITIES OF SORTING OUT THE PROBLEM" OF WASTE STORAGE. THE PAPER POINTS OUT THE CARELESS HANDLING OF THE PLUTONIUM WASTES. PLUTONIUM IS VERY POISONOUS AND HIGHLY BRITTLE (?). (IT CREATES POISON, LUNG CANCER AND DEATH.) AN ACCUMULATION OF 100 KILOGRAMS OF PLUTONIUM CAN CAUSE A NUCLEAR CHAIN REACTION--AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION.

ON FRIDAY, THE AEC DID NOT ACCEPT THE ACCUSATION, BUT ADMITTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN RUPTURES FIFTEEN TIMES IN TANKS AT HANFORD.
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PAGE 02 IAEA V 05746 101150Z

IN SOUTH CAROLINA, ONLY 2500 LITERS OF WASTE WERE LEAKING, BUT NOT

INTO GROUND WATER. THE REPROACH OF THE NEWSPAPER, THAT THE USA IS SITTING ON A TIME-BOMB, IS CERTAINLY NOT REFUTED. UNQUOTE.
LABOWITZ

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